

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-29 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3-7, 9-10, and 12-26 are amended, Claims 2, 8, and 11 are cancelled without prejudice, and Claim 29 is added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed October 30, 2003, was objected to; Claims 1-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 112, second paragraph; Claims 2, 3, 11-13, 15, and 17 were objected to; Claims 1-6 and 8-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as anticipated by Shimizu (U.S. Patent No. 5,636,067); Claims 1-5, 7, and 11-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as anticipated by Hozumi (U.S. Patent No. 6,111,703); Claims 1, 2, 13, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as unpatentable over Noda (U.S. Patent No. 5,731,915) and Huang (U.S. Patent No. 6,490,102 B1); Claims 19-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as unpatentable over Noda, Huang, and Kikuchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,163,414, herein "Kikuchi"); Claims 17-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as unpatentable over Shimizu or Hozumi; and Claims 14 and 16 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the early indication of allowable subject matter.

Regarding the objection to the IDS filed October 30, 2003, Applicant respectfully submits that except the first listed related application on that IDS, all other related applications were either abandoned or issued as patents and listed on the PTO-1449 form filed with the same IDS. Further, Applicant notes that the first listed related application on that IDS was filed in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(iii). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the first listed related application be considered.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1-28 under 35 U.S.C § 112, second paragraph, Claims 2, 8, and 11 are cancelled and the remaining claims are amended as suggested in the outstanding Office Action without adding new matter. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this rejection be withdrawn.

Regarding the objection to Claims 2, 3, 11-13, 15, and 17, Claim 11 is cancelled and Claims 3, 12, 13, 15, and 17 are amended as suggested in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-6 and 8-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as anticipated by Shimizu. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1 is amended to recite first, second, third, and fourth lens groups “sequentially arranged from an object side” and the fourth lens group includes “a positive meniscus fifth lens or a negative meniscus fifth lens having a convex surface facing the object side.” The claim amendments find support in Figure 1 for example. Claim 3 is amended to be in independent form and to recite that “a second lens group has “a cemented lens which includes a positive lens and a negative lens.” The claim amendment finds support in the specification, for example at page 19, line 17, to page 20, line 5, and in Figure 9. No new matter is believed to be added.

Briefly recapitulating, independent Claim 1 is directed to a lens for reading an original. The lens has first, second, third, and fourth lens groups. The first lens group has a positive first lens, the second lens group has a negative second lens, the third lens group has a positive reflecting power in which a third lens and a fourth lens are cemented, and the fourth lens group includes a positive meniscus fifth lens or a negative meniscus fifth lens having a convex surface facing an object side.

In a non-limiting example, Figure 1 shows the first lens group I, the second lens group II, the third lens group III, and the fourth lens group IV. Also, Figure 1 shows that the fourth

lens group IV includes a fifth lens L5 that is a positive meniscus or a negative meniscus having a convex surface facing the object side CG1.

As discussed in the specification at page 3, lines 4-16, the claimed lens advantageously “meets a plurality of needs requiring for the lens for reading an original.”

Turning to the applied art, Shimizu shows in Figures 1 and 4 various lenses arranged in various groups such that a fifth lens arranged in a fourth group G4 is “a biconvex positive lens.”¹ Therefore, Shimizu does not teach or suggest that a fourth lens group includes a positive meniscus fifth lens or a negative meniscus fifth lens having a convex surface facing an object side, as recited in Claim 1. On the contrary, the fourth lens group in Shimizu includes a *biconvex positive* lens, which is different than the claimed *meniscus lens*.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 1 and each of the claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over Shimizu.

Independent Claim 3 is directed to a lens for reading an original. The lens has four lens groups including at least five lenses and a second lens group has a cemented lens that includes a positive lens and a negative lens. In a non-limiting example, Figure 9 shows the second lens group II having a cemented lens that includes a lens L2 and a lens L3.

Shimizu shows in Figures 1-4 a cemented lens in a third lens group G3 from an object side, which is contrary to the claimed second lens group having the cemented lens.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 3 and each of the claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over Shimizu.

Claims 1-5, 7, and 11-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as anticipated by Hozumi. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

¹ Shimizu, column 9, lines 9-10.

Hozumi shows in Figures 1-11 a combination of lens groups such that a fourth group includes a lens that has a concave surface facing an object side. Therefore, Hozumi does not teach or suggest a fourth lens group that includes a positive meniscus or a negative meniscus fifth lens having a convex surface facing an object side, as recited in independent Claim 1. In addition, Hozumi does not teach or suggest a second lens group having a cemented lens that includes a positive lens and a negative lens, as recited in independent Claim 3.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1 and 3 and each of the claims depending therefore patentably distinguish over Hozumi.

Claims 1, 2, 13, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as unpatentable over Noda in view of Huang. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Noda specifically discloses at column 3, lines 15-20, that a fifth lens L5, which is part of the fourth lens group, is either “a positive meniscus lens having a concave surface directed onto the object side” or “a biconvex lens.” As discussed above, independent Claim 1 recites a fourth lens group that includes a positive meniscus fifth lens or a negative meniscus fifth lens having a *convex surface* facing the object side. Therefore, Noda does not teach or suggest a fourth lens group having a convex surface facing an object side. On the contrary, Noda teaches a *concave* surface facing the object side.

Further, the outstanding Office Action recognizes at page 7, line 14, that Noda “does not specifically disclose the lens system comprising an aspherical surface.” The outstanding Office Action relies on Huang for teaching that feature. However, Huang does not overcome the deficiencies of Noda discussed above.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 1 and each of the claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over the combination of Noda and Huang.

Claims 19-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as unpatentable over Noda, Huang, and Kikuchi. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims 19, 21, 23, and 24 are amended to recite similar features as independent Claim 1. As discussed above, the combination of Noda and Huang does not teach or suggest the features of Claim 1. Further, Kikuchi does not cure the deficiencies of Noda and Huang discussed above.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 19, 21, 23, and 24 and each of the claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over the combination of Noda, Huang, and Kikuchi.

Claims 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Shimizu and Hozumi. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

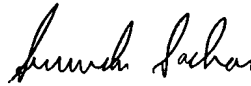
Claims 17 and 18 depend from independent Claim 1, which as discussed above patentably distinguishes over Shimizu and Hozumi. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that Claims 17 and 18 also patentably distinguish over Shimizu and Hozumi.

New independent Claim 29 is added to set forth the invention in a varying scope and Applicant submits the new claim is supported by the originally filed specification. In particular, new independent Claim 29 recites similar features as independent Claim 1, except that independent Claim 29 recites “a positive third lens and a negative fourth lens are cemented” and a fourth lens group includes “a positive meniscus fifth lens having a concave surface facing the object side.” No new matter is believed to be added. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted new Claim 29 is allowable for similar reasons as discussed above.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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